

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-08 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00

XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 ITC-01

/089 W

-----021649Z 026378 /43

R 011504Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7254

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

US MISSION GENEVA 466

AMEMBASSY PARIS

US MISSION BRUSSELS EC 132

UNCLAS PRETORIA 1611

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, SF

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN IMPORT SURCHARGE

REFERENCE: PRETORIA 1571

1. FROM FULL TEXT OF BUDGET SPEECH AND DISCUSSIONS WITH OFFICIALS OF DEPTS OF COMMERCE AND CUSTOMS, EMBASSY HAS SECURED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON 15 O/O IMPORT SURCHARGE ANNOUNCED MARCH 30. IN BUDGET SPEECH, MINISTER OF FINANCE HORWOOD DESCRIBED SURCHARGE AS TEMPORARY MEASURE AND STATED HIS INTENTION TO REDUCE OR REMOVE IT AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE, PARTICULARLY WHEN BROADER RETAIL SALES TAX COMES INTO OPERATION TOWARD END OF FY-77/78. SENIOR TRADE OFFICER IN DEPT OF COMMERCE DESCRIBED SURCHARGE AS INTENDED SOLELY AS REVENUE PRODUCING MEASURE TO MEET SHORT TERM BUDGET

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SQUEEZE SAG NOW FACING.

2. DATA FROM DEPT OF CUSTOMS SHOWS THAT ALL PRODUCTS IN BTN SECTION 1 TO 99 COVERED BY SURCHARGE BUT SPECIFIC SUB CATEGORIES IN EACH SECTION COVERED BY SOUTH AFRICA'S GATT OBLIGATIONS ARE EXEMPTED AS ARE PETROLEUM PRODUCTS AND GOVERNMENT IMPORTS. COMMERCE DEPT OFFICIAL STATED EXEMPTIONS ARE ACTUALLY BROADER THAN SAG'S SPECIFIC GATT BINDINGS BECAUSE

MANY CATEGORIES ARE AT LEAST THEORETICALLY AFFECTED BY FACT SOUTH AFRICA AND EEC HAVE NOT YET COMPLETED RENEGOTIATION OF THEIR GATT AGREEMENTS.

3. ALTHOUGH PRESS ESTIMATED ONE-THIRD OF IMPORTS WOULD BE AFFECTED, COMMERCE OFFICER THOUGHT MIGHT BE AS HIGH AS 40-50 O/O.

4. ALL GOODS WHICH HAD NOT CLEARED CUSTOMS BY COB MARCH 30 ARE SUBJECT TO SURCHARGE. THERE IS NO PROVISION FOR EXEMPTION OF GOODS IN TRANSIT OR IN BOND. AS NOTED REFTTEL, SURCHARGE IS 15 O/O OF DUTIABLE VALUE OF GOODS.

5. COPY OF LIST OF CATEGORIES EXEMPTED FROM SURCHARGE BEING POUCHED DEPT UNDER COVER OF AIRGRAM.BOWDLER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CUSTOMS DUTIES, IMPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PRETOR01611
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770114-1123
Format: TEL
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770498/aaaadhdw.tel
Line Count: 76
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 PRETORIA 1571
Retention: 0
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Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2925895
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOUTH AFRICAN IMPORT SURCHARGE
TAGS: EFIN, SF
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bf9c8bab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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